CAERLEON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1954.

- by -

EVELYN D. OWEN.

M.B. B.S. D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- including -

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

---o---O---o---

CAERLEON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT.

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the Year Ended 31st December, 1954. Caerleon.

To the Chairman and Members of the Caerleon Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the District. It is drawn up according to the directions of the Ministry of Health and includes the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres).	3256
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1954.	4830
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954) according to Rate Book.	1280
Rateable Value 1/4/54.	£21,714.
Sum represented by 1d. rate.	£90.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The predominantly rural character of this Urban District remains unchanged. The population has fallen slightly in recent years. The estimated mid year population for 1952 was 4887, for 1953, 4867 and for 1954, 4830.

Discoveries of great importance to archaeologists were made during the summer when Dr. Nash-Williams and his team of workers unearthed on the racecourse a metalled road fronting a row of shops which showed that this was the site of a civil settlement outside the walls of the Roman encampment of the II Augustan Legion at Isca.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Total.	30	30	60
Legitimate.	29	30	59
Illegitimate.	1	00	1
Stillbirths.			
Total.	3	1	4
Legitimate.	2	0	2
Illegitimate.	1	1	2

Live Birth Rate for the year, per 1,000 population..... 11.8
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1954 per 1,000 population..... 15.2
Live Birth Rate for Monmouthshire for 1954 per 1,000 population..... 16.26
Stillbirth Rate for year, per 1,000 population..... 0.8
Stillbirth Rate for Monmouthshire for 1954 per 1,000 population..... 0.47
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths..... 62.5
For England and Wales..... 24.0

The number of deaths in the area during 1954 was as follows:-

Male.	Female.	Total.
35	42	77

Death Rate per 1,000 population..... 16.57
Death Rate for England and Wales, 1954..... 11.3
Death Rate for Monmouthshire, 1954..... 11.61

The causes of death were:-

	Male.	Female.
Tuberculosis. Respiratory.....	1	0
Tuberculosis. Other.....	0	0
Cancer.....	4	5
Diabetes.....	0	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	6	5
Coronary disease, angina.....	3	1
Hypertension with heart disease.....	1	0
Other heart diseases.....	8	12
Other circulatory diseases.....	4	6
Influenza.....	0	0
Pneumonia.....	0	3
Bronchitis.....	2	0
Other disease of respiratory system.....	0	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	0	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	0	1
Nephritis and nephrosis.....	0	1
Hyperplasia of prostate.....	0	0
Accidents.....	1	1
Pregnancy childbirth and abortion.....	0	1
Congenital malformation.....	1	0
Other diseases.....	3	5
Suicide and homicide.....	1	1
	35	42

In the figures given in the foregoing tables the comparability factors for the district as supplied by the Registrar General (0.95 for births and 1,04 for deaths) have been used.

These factors take into account the way the population of the area is constituted by age, sex, etc, and are used to adjust the crude rates given by the actual numbers of births and deaths to obtain corrected rates which can then be compared with those of other areas and of the country as a whole.

Out of the total 77 deaths 34 occurred in the Mental Hospital of patients whose residence before entering the hospital was not in Caerleon.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There was one maternaldeath associated with progmancy and childbirth.

Maternal mortality per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births..... 15.6
for England and Wales..... 0.69
for Monmouthshire..... 1.49

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.....	1	0	1
Illegitimate.....	0	0	0
		Total	1

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate.....	1	0	1
Illegitimate.....	0	0	0
		Total	1

This death was due to congenital malformation.

Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births..... 16.66
for England and Wales..... 25.5
for Monmouthshire..... 39.67

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:
The staff consisted of:-

(a) Medical Officer of Health: who is also Medical Officer for the Cwmbran U.D.C. and No.8 Health Area of Monmouthshire County Council.

(b) Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector. J.H.M. Jolliffe, A.M.I.S.E., A.M.I.B.E., C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

Committees concerned with Public Health matters are.

Public Health Committee. General control and advisory function.
Works Committee. Sewerage, Sewage Disposal, Refuse Collection and Disposal and all construction items.
Recreation Committee. Open Spaces and Cemetery.
Council. Housing.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Public Cleansing. A weekly collection is made of the domestic and trade refuse by direct labour, the time involved by three men and one refuse freighter being three days each week. Difficulty is still being experienced with regard to tipping sites as the Usk Road tip cannot be utilised very much longer and no land exists sufficiently near the town to make its use for this purpose economically possible for which planning approval can be obtained. The dis-used Mill Race outside the Urban boundary was completely filled by the end of March, 1954. Another Mill Race within the Urban District was filled by the controlled tipping of refuse and covered with quarry cleanings. This action not only utilised tipping space but removed a lond standing nuisance and the Council are to be congratulated for their action in this direction. In order to provide further additional tipping space, the Usk Road tip was bulldozed at a cost of over £200. but space made available by this practice has its limitations. At the end of the year under review, negotiations were in progress for the establishment of new tipping sites along the Ponthir Road and in Christchurch, and it is hoped that these will materialise during 1955. The refuse dumps are sprayed with tip drossing to reduce fly and other unisance to a practical minimum.

Smoke Nuisance. There are only two major industries within the area and no nuisance from these was reported during the year.

Schools. It is pleasing to continue to report that the sanitary circumstances of the schools remain satisfactory.

Rivers and Streams. The control of rivers and streams having been taken over by the Usk River Board, no action in this direction was taken during the year.

Water Supplies. The Newport Corporation Water Department is the statutory authority for the supply of water within the Urban District. No samples were taken by this Council as the Corporation have a regular sampling scheme. No complaints as to quality were received and the water supplied is not plumbosolvent. No action was necessary in respect of quantity, but some complaints were received relative to pressure, and immediate action was taken to maintain supplies to those premises in Caerleon sited above the 200 O.D. mark which were principally affected. A scheme was suggested for the extension of mains supply along the Catsash Road in Christchurch but the cost involved for the very small number of properties which could be served had to be considered prohibitive, more especially as a guarantee was in force for the Usk Road area and representations were being made from Pillmawr for a similar scheme.

Cemetery. The Cold Bath Road Cemetery was completed ready for interments during October. The lay-out includes sections for the rites of the Established Church as well as sections for burials in unconsecrated ground. This provision has now met a long standing need as the burial ground in the Parish Church can no longer receive any further new grave spaces.

Swimming Baths and Pools. The very inclement weather prevented any use being made of the open air lido.

Rodent Control. A part-time operator is employed who deals with infestations as they arise in addition to making routine inspections to seek out infestations. Generally the degree of infestation is small and is confined mainly to premises adjoining the river bank, refuse tip and some business premises.

Recreation Facilities. The Council provide a very wide range of recreational facilities including the former Racecourse. Two playing fields are provided and a third is under consideration. These are in addition to the Goldcroft Common and Town Hall Gardens. A scheme to level and seed just over 5 acres of the Racecourse land was in hand at the end of the year which will provide an additional full-sized football pitch and a full sized cricket pitch complete with wicket and playing table. Among the facilities provided are bowls, tennis (two hard courts), net ball, football, cricket and putting.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal. With a view to increasing the efficiency of the sewerage system in the Lodge Road area and to connect up with the Mental Hospital for a joint sewage disposal scheme, the Council appointed a Consulting Engineer to draw up a scheme and report generally on the sewerage and sewage disposal arrangements of the area. His preliminary report is not due until early 1955. The cesspool emptying service has considerably reduced nuisance and the gratis service is very much appreciated by the occupiers of properties which are not connected to the sewerage system. Further minor improvements were made to the Coldra and Llanwern sewage plants.

Mortuary. Although only infrequently used, the Council continues to provide and maintain a mortuary for the reception of bodies and post mortem examinations. No attendant is employed. A scheme for the reconstruction of the Mortuary was under consideration at the close of the year.

Factories. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector) under the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

	Numbers on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	15	17	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	1	2	-
Total.	16	19	-

No defects were found.

There are no outworkers in the district.

Housing. The Council's housing programme received another set back by the refusal of the Usk River Board to permit further connections to the Ponthir Road Sewer. This meant that the scheme for the erection of an additional 28 houses on the Lodge Farm site was not in hand by the close of the year. However, the 16 Cornish Unit Flats at Bollin Close were completed during the year and a scheme for six bungalows and one pair of houses in Mark IV Cornish Unit construction was awaiting Ministry approval. The former are sited on the open space at Myrtle Cottages and the latter in Church Street. The latter is part of the redevelopment of the Church Street, Backhall Street and Mill Street area and, as and when other properties are demolished, so new houses will be erected to replace them.

The site for the erection of about 60 houses by private enterprise was also delayed on account of the need to provide more adequate sewerage arrangements. During the year 15 houses were erected by private enterprise , mainly on the Christchurch Estate. The Council assist by loaning monies to persons for the erection of their own houses and this scheme is assisting many persons to help themselves and thus reserve Council houses for other cases. Only one application for a grant for improvements under the Housing Act, 1949 was received during the year which had to be refused as it did not comply with the general requirements for grant purposes. It will be seen from the statistical information that one Demolition Order was made and an undertaking to effect works was agreed in respect of a second house. The survey under the provisions of section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 was commenced during the year.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

(1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	21.
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	21.
2. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	2.
3. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under 2) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation,	18.

(2) Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority, or its' officers.	10.

(3) Action under Statutory Powers.

1. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Acts, 1936.

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	-
(b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice.	-

2. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	2.
(b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice.	2.

3. Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts, 1936.

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. 1.

(b) Number of dwelling houses which were demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. 1.

(c) Number of houses in respect of which undertakings were given. 1.

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Acts, 1936.

(a) Number of separate tenements or under ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. Nil.

(b) Number of separate tenements or under ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. Nil.

	Temporary.	Perm. Non-Trad.	Traditional Houses.
Number of houses owned by Local Authority on the 31.12.54.	50	54	96
Number of Local Authority houses in course of erection on the 31.12.54.	-	-	-
Total number of houses erected during the year.			
By Local Authority.	-	-	16
By Private Enterprise.	-	-	15

Number of houses under construction by Private Enterprise but not completed on 31.12.54..... 4.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food Premises. The number and type of food premises are:-

Grocers and Provision Merchants.....	11
Confectioners.....	2
Butchers.....	2
Bakehouses.....	1
Catering Establishments.....	3
Greengrocers and Fishmongers.....	2
Fish and Chip Shops.....	1
Chemists.....	2
Total.	24

Of the foregoing, the following are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Sale of ice-cream..... 5
Manufacture of sausage.... 2

Generally all the food promises were found to be satifactory. 48 inspections of registered premises were made.

The number of dairy registrations under the Milk and Dairies Regulations is 15.

The small number of food traders does not encourage the setting up of a clean food guild or other similar organisation.

Food Inspections. There is no contral slaughtering establishment in the area. Only a very small quantity of unsound food was surrendered and destroyed. The Council collect all unsound food and bury it in the refuse tip.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1954.

Age Period.	New Cases. Resp. M.	Resp. F.	Non. Resp. M.	Non. Resp. F.	Deaths.
0 - 1 years.	-	-	-	-	
1 - 5 "	-	-	-	-	
5 - 10 "	-	-	-	-	
10- 15 "	-	-	-	-	
15- 20 "	1	-	-	-	Nil.
20- 25 "	-	-	-	-	
25- 35 "	-	-	-	1	
35- 45 "	1	-	-	-	
45- 55 "	-	1	-	-	
50 and up.	1	2	-	-	
TOTALS.	3	3	-	1	

In addition to those 7 new cases, 6 others - 4 males and 2 females - were notified as inward transfers from tother areas.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES,

OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS DURING 1954.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Small Pox.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	7	3	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever.	-	-	-
Paratyphoid.	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	11 *	-	-
Pneumonia.	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
Measles.	-	-	-
Dysentery.	33	1	-
Whooping Cough.	6	-	-
Ersipolas.	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	-	-	-

* Occurred in hospital.

CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Measles. No case of Measles was notified during the year.

Dysentery. An outbreak of Sonne Dysentery occurred in the late spring, 18 notifications in all being received. The original source of infection was not discovered but it was known that the disease was prevalent in adjoining areas at the time. With one exception the sufferers were all children although the Shigella Sonnei was isolated from the stools of the mothers of some of these children. Appropriate measures were taken to prevent the spread of infection as far as possible. The outbreak lasted six weeks.

It was unfortunate that at the St. Cadoc's Childrens Home the Matron and her child contracted the disease. Specimins and swabs were taken from all the inmates of the home and all precautions and hygiene measures were instituted. Of the fourteen children there three only were affected. One of these was admitted to an Isolation Hospital as a precautionary measure since he was unlikely to be able to maintain the necessary standard of behaviour.

During the year cases of dysentery were notified from St. Cadoc's Hospital but these were Flexner and not Sonne dysentery.

Diphtheria and Acute Poliomyelitis. There were no cases of either of these diseases.

Immunisation and Vaccination.

These were carried out at the County Council Infant Welfare Clinics and in the general practioners' Surgeries.

51 children received the primary course of injections against diphtheria and 11 were given booster doses.

40 people were vaccinated during the year, 36 being children under 15 years of age. In addition 7 people over 15 years of age were re-vaccinated.

These numbers are slightly higher than the previous year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

EVELYN D. OWEN.

Medical Officer of Health.